



**OFFICE
CLOSED**

**West River Cooperative
Telephone Company
will be closed Monday,
July 4, 2022 in
observance of
Independence Day.**



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West River Cooperative Telephone Company

Calling on You

2022 Scholarship Winners

West River Cooperative Telephone Company and Grand Electric Cooperative teamed together for the 21st year to award \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors from area school districts. WRCTC and Grand Electric sponsor this scholarship program to help serve as an investment in the economic future of our rural area. It is used to recognize and encourage the academic achievements of students in the areas we serve. Winners have been awarded their certificates at the Academic Awards programs at their respective schools. Congratulations Class of 2022!



SYDNEE KJELSEN, daughter of John and Tanya Kjellsen, graduated May 21, 2022, from Newell High School. Ranked 1 of 13 in her class, Sydnee graduated with a 4.3 GPA. She plans to attend Black Hills State University to study Elementary Education with a minor in Reading and Coaching. Sydnee has been involved in many extracurricular activities such as volleyball, basketball, track, Student Council, National Honor Society, FFA, Leo's Club, S.A.D.D., One Acts, drama, Teens Against Tobacco Use and last but certainly not least, Sydnee completed 27 dual credit college courses. Once graduated, Sydnee plans to move to a rural area where she hopes to become a teacher and coach in her community.

TAYLOR THOMPSON, daughter of Scott and Angie Thompson, graduated May 14, 2022, from Bison High School. Ranked 1 of 12 in her class, Taylor graduated with a 4.2 GPA. She plans to attend North Dakota State University and will major in Pharmacy. Taylor was involved in many activities during high school such as chorus, band, Student Council, FCCLA, National Honor Society, basketball, track, volleyball, church activities, volunteering, and donating time to Feeding America. Once Taylor graduates, she hopes to find a job in retail, pediatrics, or a nursing home pharmacy. She would like to start in a larger area in North Dakota or South Dakota to gain experience and eventually make her way back closer to her family in Bison.



TALON TROGSTAD, son of Vance and Tina Trogstad, graduated May 15, 2022 from Lemmon High School. Ranked 2 of 15 in his class, Talon graduated with a 4.0 GPA. He plans to attend Black Hills State University, where he will major in Business Management with a minor in Sports Science. Talon participated in many extracurricular activities throughout his high school career such as Academic Olympics, Quiz Bowl, holding the title of Class Secretary, National Honor Society, basketball, track, football and a lot of volunteer work. Upon college graduation, Talon will return to Lemmon to work under his father at Stock's Electric. Here he will gain the experience he needs to one day take over the family business. Talon hopes to coach, referee and volunteer his time to help Lemmon's athletic programs, which have made a big impact on his life.

KARLIN TEIGEN, daughter of Matthew and Tracy Teigen, graduated from Harding County High School on May 14, 2022. She ranked 4 of 14 in her class and graduated with a 3.8 GPA. She plans to attend the University of Wyoming and major in Kinesiology with a minor in finance. Karlin participated in many activities during high school such as, National Honor Society, Student Council, volleyball, basketball, rodeo, FFA, 4-H, Youth Group, Academic Olympics, church events, Youth Bible School and found the time to volunteer. Once Karlin graduates, she plans to become a chiropractor. Her long term goal is to open her own practice in a rural community and help care for her future patients.



KAYCEE GROVES, daughter of Buffy Groves and Kevin Groves, graduated May 14, 2022, from Faith High School. She ranked 1 of 12 and graduated with a 4.1 GPA. Kaycee will be attending Black Hills State University in the Fall where she will major in Exercise Science/ Pre-Physical Therapy. Kaycee spent a lot of time in extracurricular PO Box 191, Vale; activities including, basketball, volleyball, Academic Olympics, Quiz Bowl, rodeo, National Honor Society, and also made time for community service. Once Kaycee's prerequisites are complete, she plans to attend physical therapy school where she will earn her doctorate degree. She hopes to eventually become a physical therapist for a college or professional basketball team.



COMMANDIQ

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO ME?

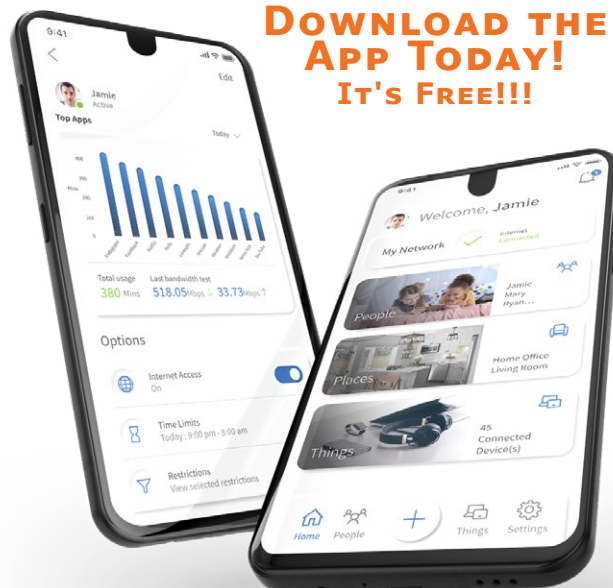
In the next few months, we will cover COMMANDIQ, PROTECTIQ AND EXPERIENCEIQ and discuss WHY these 13399 SD Hwy 79, Reva; options are beneficial to YOU!

COMMANDIQ is a **FREE** application on your smart device that allows YOU to control your internet! It's like a remote for your Wi-Fi - HOW COOL IS THAT?! While running the app from the palm of your hand, you can change Wi-Fi passwords and Wi-Fi Network names, run speed tests, turn Wi-Fi on and off for specific devices and get notifications when a new or unknown device connects to your network! Did I mention it's **FREE**?! Having access to your internet wherever you are gives YOU the power!

There are so many benefits to the COMMANDIQ App! The list goes on and on! Call the office today for more information!

- ❏ **COMMANDIQ is available to all Managed Wi-Fi subscribers. PROTECTIQ and EXPERIENCEIQ require our GigaSpire.**
- ❏ **Already have a GigaCenter? Call us today to upgrade to a GigaSpire for FREE!!**

**YOUR Wi-Fi
REMOTE!
DOWNLOAD THE
APP TODAY!
IT'S FREE!!!**



ON THE ROAD AGAIN 2023 DIRECTORY PHOTO CONTEST

We are looking for photos for the 2023 WRCTC Directory. The photos can be of any kind of ROAD! Dirt roads, paved roads, winding roads – Any type of ROAD you can capture on camera! We want to see the view through your lens!

Please submit your pictures to bschecher@wrctc.coop

WRCTC requires that all photos be submitted digitally. Digital photos are more vibrant and clear, they keep their quality and are easy to access while designing the directory.

*** We will not crop your photos for the contest, they will be used as is.**

Deadline to enter the 2023 Directory Photo Contest is August 1, 2022.

PHOTO CONTEST RULES: The photo must be an original taken by a WRCTC member. If the photo contains a person who is highly recognizable and it is chosen as a winner, a picture permission form must be signed by the individual. If the subject is under 18 years of age, a parent/guardian must sign prior to receiving the money. Each customer may submit FOUR photos. Photos may be submitted on a computer disc or e-mailed as a jpeg or pdf file. Submission of the photo releases all right of ownership of the photo and authorizes WRCTC to publish the photo on the directory cover, or use as WRCTC desires, allowing proper acknowledgment to the photographer. The winners will see their photo on the front cover of the 2023 directory and will be awarded \$100 cash prize for first place; \$50 for second place and \$25 for third place. Employees and Directors are not eligible.

Lifeline: Affordable Telephone Service for Income-Eligible Consumers

Lifeline is the FCC's program to help make communications service more affordable for low-income consumers. Lifeline provides subscribers a discount on monthly telephone and/or broadband services purchased from participating providers 11650 209th Ave, Keldron; in the marketplace. The discounts, which can be applied to stand-alone broadband, bundled voice-broadband packages - either fixed or mobile - and stand-alone voice service - will help ensure that low-income consumers can afford 21st-century broadband and the access it provides to jobs, education and opportunities.

The History of Lifeline

The FCC established the Lifeline program in 1985 to ensure that qualifying low-income consumers could afford phone service and the opportunities and security it provides. Congress supported and strengthened Lifeline in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, requiring that affordable service and advanced communications be available to low-income consumers across the country. In March of 2016, the FCC modernized Lifeline for advanced services by beginning a transition toward support of broadband service.

How Lifeline Works

Lifeline provides a discount on monthly telephone and/or broadband services of \$9.25 per month for eligible low-income subscribers. Subscribers may receive a Lifeline discount on either a wireline or a wireless service, but may not receive a discount on both services at the same time. Lifeline also supports broadband and broadband-voice bundles. FCC rules prohibit more than one Lifeline service per household.

Lifeline is available to eligible low-income subscribers in every state, territory, commonwealth, and on Tribal lands.

To participate in the program, subscribers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the federal Poverty Guidelines or participate in certain assistance programs. You can see if you are eligible with the Lifeline Eligibility Pre-Screening Tool on the Universal Service Administrative website at <https://www.checklifeline.org/lifeline>.

How Do I Qualify?

The following is a list of assistance programs that qualify a participant for Lifeline:

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps or SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Veterans Pension or Survivors Benefit Program



Lifeline information continued on pg. 4

Securing your Account

To protect the privacy of information contained in your telephone account, WRCTC is only allowed to discuss account information with the person(s) listed on the account. This includes businesses. We must authenticate you (confirm your identity) before sharing account information. This is done by asking you two questions pertaining to your account that only you, as the account holder, would know. We can add more security to your account by adding personal questions that only the authorized users would know. Call the office to update your security questions or update via SmartHub.

If the account is listed ONLY in your name or the business' name, you might want to consider adding an authorized user. For instance, if you are a parent or individual who relies on someone else to discuss account changes, payments or any 14098 Limpert Rd, Buffalo; other account data with our company, you will need to have the person's name added to your records as an authorized contact before our customer service representatives are able to assist them.

If you need to add an authorized user to your account, the form can be found on our website, www.wrctc.coop, or you may call our office at 605-244-5213.

New WRCTC Members

Lemmon

Beer, Quirt 374-1089

Sorum

Gruwell, Cody 866-4697

Phone Number Change

Mininger, Brent & Anne from: 257-5177
to: 456-1906

New Employee



Brett Peacock is originally from Sioux City, Iowa and recently decided he wanted to move closer to family. He made the move back to Bison and began work with West River Cooperative Telephone Company on May 2, 2022. He was hired as a Combination Technician and

will be maintaining and installing Fiber and Telecom pathways. Brett previously worked for Thompson Teledata where he gained a lot of experience and knowledge. He also worked at K -T, which is why he may look familiar 12973 Schmele Rd, Newell; to some of you. He graduated from West High School in Iowa and then went on to Western Iowa Tech Community College to earn his degree.

Brett is excited to be back in the Bison area. He is finally close to family and is back in his element. His parents are Jason and Wendy Peacock and he has two brothers, Branden and Ben. When Brett is not working, he enjoys fishing, shooting his guns and playing the guitar. WELCOME to the crew, Brett!

Find Your Address

Five addresses were hidden in the last newsletter. Hidden in this issue are five new addresses. If you find YOUR address, all you have to do is notify our office.

The \$20 will then be deducted off your next telephone bill.

Changes of address in the New WRCTC Members section do not count.

Deadline is June 24, 2022.

\$20

bill credit

Lifeline: (continued)

How Tribal Link Up Works?

Tribal Link Up provides eligible low-income consumers living on Tribal lands with a one-time discount of up to \$100 on the initial installation or activation of a wireline or wireless telephone for the primary residence. Tribal Lands Link Up also allows consumers to pay the remaining amount that they owe on a deferred schedule, interest-free. Federal rules prohibit eligible low-income consumers from receiving more than ONE Link Up discount at a primary residence. Eligible consumers may be eligible for Link Up again only after moving to a new primary residence. Link Up support is only offered to carriers who are building out infrastructure on Tribal lands so not all carriers may discount their activation fee. Enhanced benefits are provided to low-income consumers who live on a federally recognized Indian Tribe's reservation.

Tribal Lifeline takes up to an extra \$25 off your monthly bill, for a total Lifeline discount of up to \$34.25 per month. You can get Tribal Lifeline if you live on Tribal lands. Tribal lands include any federally recognized Indian tribe's reservation, Pueblo, or colony, including former reservations in Oklahoma, Alaska Native regions, Hawaiian Home Lands, or Indian Allotments. The following is a list of Tribal assistance programs that also qualify a participant for Lifeline:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) General Assistance
- Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
- Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met)

How Do I Sign Up for Lifeline?

If you qualify for any of the above programs, you must complete a Lifeline Assistance Application. You can find the application online at www.wrctc.coop. Submit applications to:

USAC
Lifeline Support Center
P.O. Box 7081
London, KY 40742

SECURE PAY

Make a payment on your bill over the phone using a debit/credit card or check.

Available 24/7!

844-252-5267